



The Amesbury Beat

By: Officer Tom Hanshaw

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Anyone who follows the evening news is likely aware of the war against terrorism. We have experienced far too many senseless acts over the years, both here in the United States and across the world. These incidents have demonstrated the importance of being cautious, knowing your surroundings and “see something, say something.” We rest at night knowing our military and first responders are being vigilant but there is another form of terrorism, which does not seem to get very much attention and prevalent in almost

Criminals, from here and abroad, have launched an assault on our money and they are making some hefty profits. We recently investigated an incident where personal checks were stolen from a motor vehicle break in Southern New Hampshire and cashed here by a perpetrator, using a stolen ID from Marblehead. Another victim was sent personal checks from an acquaintance she met online and asked to deposit funds into her bank account. The perpetrator then came up with a story that a family member was ill and asked the money be wired back. The victim sent the money, only to learn the original checks were fraudulent a few days later. These two incidents are examples from the professional world of crime and happening daily.

Online banking is convenient and used by more and more consumers in today’s busy world. Unfortunately, once someone gains access to your account, it can be drained quickly and just as easily. If you are victimized by a criminal, it’s likely you’ll get your money back but if you deposit fraudulent funds and later withdraw them, it’s your loss. The scams are becoming more sophisticated as criminals develop new ways to steal your money. Protecting your money, staying alert to account activity and recognizing these scams early are crucial today.

One criminal ring, operating up and down the east coast, targets vehicles in busy parking lots, such as markets and gyms. The thieves will smash windows and grab wallets or purses left unattended inside. They act quickly, are organized, likely armed, recruiting accomplices along the way. Never leave credit cards, personal checks or your personal information unattended and avoid being complacent; these crimes are happening everywhere.



In this week's "Flashback," I went back to 2017 and found a number of worthy stories; the hiring of a third-generation officer (Liam Leary) in Amesbury, Chief Ouellet retiring, AHS Alum Jamey Mroz bringing NFL players to a clinic at the High School, the APD Honor Guard at Fenway Park, a prolonged power outage and the Country Music Festival featuring Charlie Daniels. We also saw progress on the Whittier Bridge and the overdue reconstruction of 110/150.

The most notable story I chose for this week was actually a sad one; the day WNBP went silent. The greatest community station in the nation went off the air on August 1st after providing local news and entertainment since 1957. I was fortunate to have worked with the Station crew many times over the years, as they sponsored community events and was a guest countless times on Win's World. WNBP was a great resource for crime prevention tips, community happenings and FM publicity. Win Damon provided an incredible amount of insight on events like The Relay For Life, helping to make them successful. Since WNBP was silenced, other local stations like Cool 94.1 and Northshore 104.9 have stepped in and done a great job but the memory of listening to 1450 AM on those snowy mornings, waiting to hear the no-school announcement is forever etched.

